

INSECTA MUNDI

A Journal of World Insect Systematics

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New *Trachysphyrus* Haliday (Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae) in the
albomarginatus species group from northwestern Argentina

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Date of Issue: December 5, 2008

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Insecta Mundi 0055: 1-9

Published in 2008 by

Center for Systematic Entomology, Inc.

P. O. Box 141874

Gainesville, FL 32614-1874 U. S. A.

<http://www.centerforsystematicentomology.org/>

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Printed Copy ISSN 0749-6737

On-Line ISSN 1942-1354

CD-ROM ISSN 1942-1362

New *Trachysphyrus* Haliday (Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae) in the albomarginatus species group from northwestern Argentina

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Abstract. Three new species of the albomarginatus species group of the genus *Trachysphyrus* (*T. fidalgoi*, *T. riojanus*, and *T. tmetus*) are described from the Subandean Desert (Monte) of Northwest Argentina. A key is given to these and to the five described species also known from Neotropic Argentina in the semiarid Prepuna, Subandino, and Chaco Serrano as well as in such wetter habitats as the Chaco Húmedo and Selva Tucumano-Boliviana (Yungas). Four additional species occur in Neantarctic Chile from Santiago south to Magallanes with overlap into the *Nothofagus* forests of southwest Argentina (Neuquén, Río Negro). Several species have been reared from cocoons of Lepidoptera (Megalopygidae, Psychidae) and others from mud nests of eumenid wasps (*Hypodynerus* Saussure, *Pachymenes* Saussure).

Resumen. Se describen tres especies nuevas de *Trachysphyrus* (*T. fidalgoi*, *T. riojanus*, y *T. tmetus*) del Desierto Subandino en el noroeste de la Argentina y pertenecientes al grupo de *T. albomarginatus*. Se proporciona una clave de éstas junto con las cinco especies ya descritas del mismo grupo que se conocen de la Argentina neotropical y que habitan en zonas semiáridas como la Prepuna, Subandino, y Chaco Serrano, asimismo en zonas más lluviosas como el Chaco Húmedo y Selva Tucumano-Boliviana (Yungas). El grupo está representado también por cuatro especies más en Chile neantártico desde Santiago hasta Magallanes y en el suroeste de la Argentina (Neuquén, Río Negro). Varias especies han sido criadas de capullos de Lepidoptera (Megalopygidae, Psychidae) y otras de los nidos de barro construidos por avispas de la familia Eumenidae (*Hypodynerus* Saussure, *Pachymenes* Saussure).

Introduction

Trachysphyrus Haliday is a very large Andean and temperate South American genus of cryptine ichneumonids most of which are ectoparasitoids of Lepidoptera that make tough cocoons or of eumenid wasps in mud nests. Porter (1967) gave descriptions and keys to 94 species, of which 68 were new. More recent fieldwork has greatly increased this number. Here I describe three new members of the albomarginatus species group which were collected by Malaise trap at Santa Vera Cruz in the Sierra de Velasco of La Rioja Province as part of a collaborative project between the Centro Regional de Investigaciones de La Rioja (CRILAR), an institute of the Argentine National Science Foundation (CONICET), and the research associate program of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods.

The albomarginatus species group may be recognized by the following combination of characters: Flagellum with a white band; head and body black or black and white; often with orange legs; apical margin of clypeus without a median tooth; malar space 0.6-0.9 times as long as basal width of mandible; epomia not or only weakly turned mesad above at humeral margin of pronotum; mesoscutum often shining with dense but adjacent or subadjacent punctures and strong wrinkling along notauli, more rarely mat and finely puncto-reticulate; no carina on prepectus opposite lower hind corner of pronotum; axillus vein always close to hind margin of hind wing; base of petiole without a strong rounded or subtriangular lateral projection; second gastric tergite without large, coarse punctures; no ridges on dorsal valve of ovipositor tip.

The albomarginatus species group has fifteen species, with one in the Peruvian Andes, nine in northern and central Argentina, and four in Neantarctic Chile and southern Argentina. Several species are known to parasitize Lepidoptera in the genera *Oiketicus* Guilding (Psychidae) and *Megalopyge* Hübner (Megalopygidae), while others have been reared from the mud nests of eumenine wasps (Hymenoptera, Vespidae) such as *Pachymenes bipartitus* (Fox) and *Hypodynerus* Saussure.

Most argentine species occur in semiarid or arid habitats at 1-2000 m altitude in the Monte (Subandino) and Chaco Serrano biotic provinces with some overlap into moist woodland along streams, while *T. brasson* Porter and *T. blanchardi* Townes and Townes are known mostly from wet forest and the Chaco Húmedo (Cabrera and Willink 1973, Porter 1967).

Key to species of the *albomarginatus* species group in northern and central Argentina

1. Clypeus on apical margin with a pair of tiny median tubercles; mesoscutum mat, finely reticulo-punctate with some transverse wrinkling mesad along notauli; first flagellomere 8.0 times as long as deep at apex; propodeal cristae strongly projecting, obtuse subcuneate; second gastric tergite mat with dense micro-reticulation and tiny punctures whose setae equal or exceed the length of their interspaces ***Trachysphyrus fidalgoi* Porter**
- Clypeus without tubercles on apical margin; mesoscutum largely shining with strong subadjacent to confluent punctures and often with coarse wrinkling all along notauli and on periphery of lateral lobes; first flagellomere 3.5-6.9 times as long as deep at apex; propodeal cristae often less strongly projecting, subligulate or subcuneate; second gastric tergite variable, often shining with weaker micro-reticulation and sparser setae **2**
- 2(1). Flagellum broadly flattened below toward apex; sheathed portion of ovipositor 0.40 times as long as fore wing ***Trachysphyrus zaceras* Porter**
- Flagellum not or slightly flattened below toward apex; sheathed portion of ovipositor 0.40-0.80 times as long as fore wing **3**
- 3(2). Ovipositor 0.70-0.80 times as long as fore wing **4**
- Ovipositor 0.40-0.50 times as long as fore wing **5**
- 4(3). Gaster without white markings; first flagellomere 3.5-4.0 times as long as deep at apex; notauli sharp and narrow, reaching 0.9 times length of mesoscutum; postpetiole 1.1 as wide as long; second gastric tergite dully shining with very numerous tiny, crowded punctures which emit short, overlapping setae; ovipositor with nodus well developed, 0.33 times as high at notch as long from notch to apex ***Trachysphyrus riojanus* Porter**
- Gaster marked with white laterally at least on tergites 4-6; first flagellomere 4.6-5.8 times as long as deep at apex; notauli weak, reaching at most 0.5-0.6 times length of mesoscutum; postpetiole 1.3-1.6 times as wide as long; second gastric tergite smooth and shining with punctures larger, sparser, and emitting short, mostly well separated setae; ovipositor with nodus weakly defined, low, and tip 0.18-0.22 times as high at notch as long from notch to apex ***Trachysphyrus blanchardi* Townes**
- 5(3). Ridges on ventral valve of ovipositor tip very strong, prominently raised and projecting below as large teeth; clypeus rather low in profile with basal half weakly to moderately convex or sloping upward and apical half depressed so that there is often a palpable dividing line or almost a ridge separating the two faces ***Trachysphyrus ocris* Porter**
- Ridges on ventral valve of ovipositor often strong but scarcely projecting below; clypeal profile moderately to very high convex, subpyramidal or nasute, its apical face usually steeper and not much depressed **6**
- 6(5). Ovipositor tip with nodus scarcely defined, its presence indicated by a tiny notch, tip profile only slightly declining distad of notch until just before apex where it is abruptly truncate; gaster without white markings ***Trachysphyrus tmetus* Porter**
- Ovipositor tip with nodus distinct, tip profile gently declining between notch and apex; gaster often but not always with white markings **7**
- 7(6). White on more or less of clypeus; coxae orange red; ovipositor tip 0.24-0.29 times as high at notch as long from notch to apex ***Trachysphyrus brasson* Porter**

- No white on clypeus; coxae black; ovipositor tip 0.30-0.38 as high at notch as long from notch to apex 8
- 8(7). First flagellomere 4.4-4.9 times as long as deep at apex; mesoscutum with almost uniform coarse puncto-reticulation; postpetiole 1.8-1.9 times as wide as long; second gastric tergite finely but strongly and a little granularly micro-reticulate *Trachysphyrus albomarginatus* (Taschenberg)
- First flagellomere 6.0-6.4 times as long as deep at apex; mesoscutum coarsely or sometimes grossly wrinkled but with some areas of large, sharp, discrete punctures, especially on lateral lobes; postpetiole 1.6-1.7 times as long as wide; second gastric tergite smoother and shinier, more finely and weakly micro-reticulate *Trachysphyrus usallatae* (Porter)

***Trachysphyrus fidalgoi* Porter, new species**

(Fig. 1)

Description. Female Holotype. Color: antenna black with orange brown below on scape and a white band above on flagellomeres 5-8; head, mesosoma, and gaster black with a whitish blotch near base of mandible, a narrow white line on much of facial and frontal orbit, and a similarly inconspicuous white line toward apex on vertical orbit and continuing below on a little more than upper half of hind orbit, white obscurely on pronotal collar, faintly on humeral margin of pronotum at upper end of epomia, faintly also on apices of tergites 5-6, and with a broad pure white band on apex of tergite 7; fore and mid legs shining black on coxa and trochanter, orange stained on trochantellus, light orange on femur, more dully orange on tibia with apex slightly blackish, and tarsus dull orange with a little dusky staining on apices of segments 1-4 and with segment 5 mostly blackish; hind leg similar except for whitish on tarsomeres 3-4; wings hyaline with faint brownish staining.

Length of fore wing: 6.1 mm. Flagellum very long and slender, first segment 8.0 times as long as deep at apex. Clypeus in profile moderately high, a little asymmetrically subpyramidal with basal face gently convex and apical face a little concave, faces quite distinct in anterior view, apical margin slightly convex with a pair of tiny median tubercles. Malar space 0.8 as long as basal width of mandible. Fore tibia long and slender, only slightly inflated. Mesoscutum notauli fine and narrow, traceable, 0.7 times length of mesoscutum but becoming very weak toward apex; surface dull, finely and granularly reticulo-punctate with some transverse wrinkling mesad along notauli. Mesopleuron mat, finely reticulo-punctate, speculum smooth and shining except invaded by strong punctures dorsally, sternaulus weak, barely traceable on apical half of mesopleuron. Wing venation with radial cell 4.0 times as long as wide; areolet large, rather high with intercubiti strongly convergent above, second abscissa of radius 0.5 times as long as first intercubitus; second recurrent a little outcurved on upper half, straight and slightly reclivous below. Propodeum with spiracle 1.4 times as long as wide; basal transcarina sharp throughout; apical transcarina obsolete except for the much projecting, bluntly subcuneate cristae. First gastric tergite with postpetiole strongly expanded, 1.1 times as wide at apex as long from spiracle to apex; dorsal longitudinal carinae faintly suggested toward apex of petiole and on base of postpetiole, enclosing a weakly elevated median area; surface of postpetiole basally mat with minute puncto-reticulation but toward apex becoming smooth and polished with scattered larger punctures. Second gastric tergite mat with dense micro-reticulation and tiny, mostly a little sparser than subadjacent punctures emitting short setae that equal or a little exceed the length of their interspaces. Ovipositor sheathed portion 0.40 times as long as fore wing; straight, subrobust, compressed, nodus distinct, quite high, with a minute notch at summit, dorsal valve in profile strongly and directly tapering to apex; tip 0.25 times as high at notch as long from notch to apex.

Variation. Length of fore wing 6.3 mm. First flagellomere 7.6-7.8 times as long as deep at apex. Malar space 0.9 as long as basal width of mandible. Wing venation with second abscissa of radius 0.4 times as long as first intercubitus. First gastric tergite with postpetiole 1.2 as long as wide at apex. Ovipositor 0.35 times as long as fore wing; tip 0.20-0.30 times as high at notch as long from notch to apex.



Figure 1. *Trachysphyrus fidalgoi*, female, paratype. Santa Vera Cruz, La Rioja, Argentina. Lateral view of entire insect.

Type material. Holotype female, ARGENTINA, La Rioja Province, Sierra de Velasco, Santa Vera Cruz, 1700m, 6-IV-2003, P. Fidalgo, Malaise trap [IMLA]. Paratypes: 5 females, ARGENTINA, 1 female, same data as holotype [IMLA]; 3 females, Catamarca Province, 6 km N. Belén, 1240 m, 1-15-VI-1969, 1-15-VIII-1969, 16-30-IX-1968, Willink, Terán, Stange, Malaise trap [AEIC, FSCA, IMLA]; 1 female, Salta Province, Tacuil, 2400 m, 1-15-I-1969, Willink, Terán, Stange [IMLA].

Relationships. The strongly projecting propodeal cristae, finely reticulate mesoscutal sculpture, and very long first flagellomere distinguish this species from other sympatric members of the albomarginatus species group. Its closest relative is the central Chilean *T. metargas* (Porter 1967) which differs in having the white flagellar band limited to segments 5-6 or 7; the legs darker, without orange coloration; the first flagellomere shorter, 6.1-6.7 times as long as deep at apex; no tubercles on apical margin of the clypeus; the fore tibia inflated; the notauli shorter, reaching 0.5 times or less the length of mesoscutum; and the postpetiole more weakly expanded, 0.90 times as wide at apex as long from spiracle to apex.

Specific name. This species is named for Dr. Patricio Fidalgo of the CRILAR, distinguished hymenopterist, who has helped enthusiastically in this and other projects over a period of many years.

***Trachysphyrus riojanus* Porter, new species**

(Fig. 2)

Description. Female Holotype. Color: antenna black with a white band above on flagellomeres 6-9; head, mesosoma and gaster black with dull white and reddish staining on mandible, a white line on upper half of facial orbit and much of frontal orbit, a white line on upper half of hind orbit, dull white on pronotal collar; fore and mid leg with coxa and trochanter black, femur orange, tibia duller orange with faint dusky staining, tarsus dull orange with dusky on tips of segments 1-4 and 5th segment mostly black; hind leg similar except with some white on tarsomeres 3 and 4; wings dark brown with metallic reflections.

Length of forewing: 8.1 mm. Flagellum slender, cylindric with first segment 3.7 times as long as deep at apex. Clypeus subnasute, weakly and asymmetrically raised in profile, basal face gently curved and apical face strongly concave, 0.3 times as long as base, the faces very distinct in anterior view, separated towards middle by a low ridge. Malar space 0.6 times as long as basal width of mandible. Fore tibia stout but scarcely inflated. Mesoscutum with notauli sharp and narrow, reaching 0.9 times length of mesoscutum; surface shining with some weak transverse wrinkling along notauli and with very dense but largely non-coalescent small, sharp punctures which are a little larger and more discrete on lateral lobes and a little smaller and more crowded on central lobe. Mesopleuron dully shining, densely puncto-reticulate; sternaulus becoming broad and shallow on its apical 0.5 but traceable throughout. Wing venation with areolet large, intercubiti moderately convergent above, second abscissa of radius 0.8 times as long as first intercubitus.

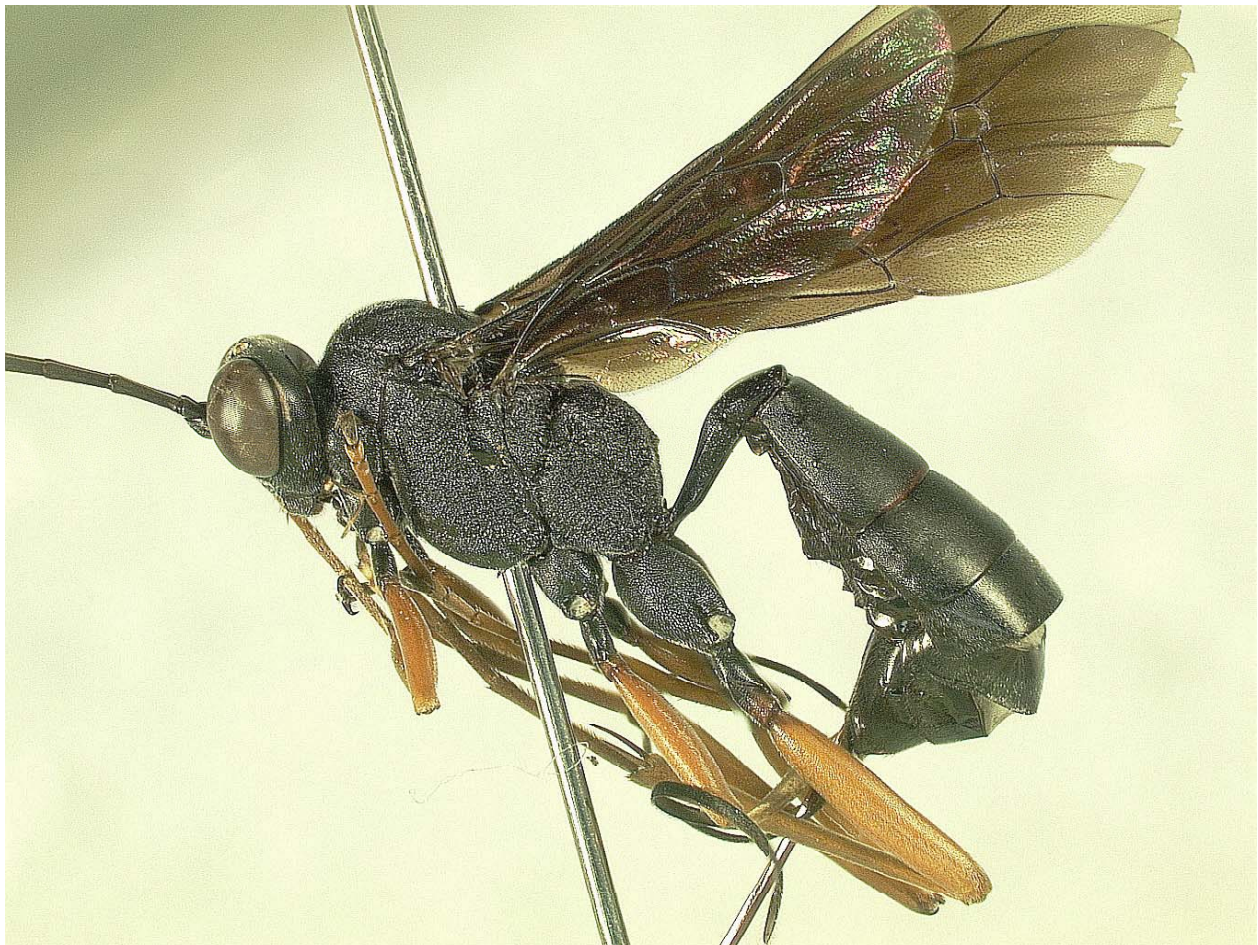


Figure 2. *Trachysphyrus riojanus*, female, paratype. Santa Vera Cruz, La Rioja, Argentina. Lateral view of entire insect.

Propodeum with spiracle 1.7 times as long as wide; basal transcarina delicate but traceable throughout; apical transcarina faintly developed toward middle, stronger laterally where it is developed into broad, low subcuneate cristae. First gastric tergite with postpetiole strongly expanded, 1.1 times as wide at apex as long from spiracle to apex; dorsal longitudinal carinae distinct but not sharp on apex of petiole and base of postpetiole; surface smooth and polished with very weak micro-reticulation and small widely scattered punctures which are most numerous laterad. Second gastric tergite dully shining with small very numerous tiny crowded punctures that are mostly subadjacent to a little confluent and which emit short, overlapping setae. Ovipositor sheathed portion 0.80 times as long as fore wing, straight, compressed; nodus well developed with a tiny notch at summit, dorsal valve in profile steeply and directly tapering from notch to apex, 0.33 times as long as high at apex.

Variation. *Color:* white band on flagellomeres 5-9; white markings on head often very faint. Length of fore wing: 6.4-8.7 mm. Flagellum with first segment 3.5-4.0 times as long as deep at apex. Malar space 0.8 times as long as basal width of mandible. Wing venation: second abscissa of radius 0.7-0.9 times as long as first intercubitus. Ovipositor: sheathed portion 0.70 times as long as fore wing; tip 0.30-0.34 times as high a notch as long from notch to apex.

Type Material. Holotype female, ARGENTINA, La Rioja Province, Sierra de Velasco, Santa Vera Cruz, 1700 m, XII-2001, P. Fidalgo, Malaise trap [IMLA]. Paratypes: 9 females, ARGENTINA, 3 females, La Rioja Province, Sierra de Velasco, Santa Vera Cruz, 1700 m, 15-31-XII-2003, I-2002, P. Fidalgo, Malaise trap [AEIC, FSCA, IMLA]; 2 females, Salta Province, Tacuil, 2400 m, 16-31-XII-1968, 1-15-I-1969, Willink, Terán, Stange, Malaise trap [IMLA]; 3 females, Salta Province, Yacochuya 1950 m, ca. Cafayate, 16-30-IX-1968, 1-15-X-1969, 16-31-X-1968, 16-31-XII-1969, Willink, Terán, Stange, Malaise trap [IMLA].

Relationships. This species is distinctive in its long ovipositor with the nodus conspicuously elevated, sharp and almost percurrent notauli, dully shining second gastric tergite with tiny crowded punctures and densely overlapping setae, and entirely black gaster. Only *T. blanchardi* has the ovipositor equally long but this is an adaptive character of little phylogenetic significance and, as indicated in the key, *T. riojanus* has several distinctive features which suggest that it is not closely related to any other species of its group.

Specific name. *Riojanus* is a latinized masculine adjective derived from La Rioja Province.

***Trachysphyrus tmetus* Porter, new species**

(Fig. 3, 4)

Description. Female Holotype. Color: antenna black with reddish brown below on scape and with a white band above on flagellomeres 5-9; head, mesosoma, and gaster shining black with a white line on upper facial orbit extending onto lower frontal orbit, and another incomplete white line on hind orbit; fore and mid legs with coxae and trochanters black, trochantelli dull orange, femora and tibiae orange, and tarsi dull orange with dusky staining apically on segments 1-4 and more conspicuously dusky on 5; hind legs with coxae, trochanters, and trochantelli black, femur orange with black narrowly on base and apex, tibia black, tarsomeres blackish with brownish staining on bases of segments; wings dark brown with metallic reflections.

Length of forewing: 9.6 mm. Flagellum long and moderately slender, cylindric, first segment 5.3 as long as deep at apex. Clypeus strongly raised, subnasute in profile with highest point a little below middle, apical face shorter and more steeply declivous than basal, in anterior view the faces are discrete but not sharply so; apical margin straight. Malar space 0.7 times as long as basal width of mandible. Fore tibia elongate, weakly inflated. Pronotum with submarginal groove strong and deeply foveolate throughout; epomia strong in scrobe and turned mesad above so as to form a small discontinuity on humeral margin of pronotum. Mesoscutum with notauli broad but shallow, reaching 0.8 times length of mesoscutum; surface mostly shining with coarse and irregular but in part transversely biased wrinkling along and across notauli and beyond their terminus as well as more briefly along outer margin of lateral lobes, but



Figure 3. *Trachysphyrus tmetus*, female, holotype. San Pedro, La Rioja, Argentina. Lateral view of entire insect.

internally on lobes less shining, more finely wrinkled and reticulo-punctate with intercalated micro-aciculation. Mesopleuron shining, with strong reticulate wrinkling, speculum smooth and polished with some large punctures, sternaulus broad and well defined throughout, weakest on apical half. Wing venation with areolet large, high, with intercubiti rather strongly convergent above, second abscissa of radius 0.7 times as long as first intercubitus; axillus close to hind margin of hind wing. Propodeum with spiracle subelliptic, 2.3 times as long as wide; basal transcarina very fine and weak; apical transcarina obsolete except for the rather small but conspicuously projecting subligulate cristae. First gastric tergite with postpetiole strongly expanded, 1.4 times as wide at apex as long from spiracle to apex, its surface toward base silky shining with minute aciculation, but toward apex becoming smoother and more polished with scattered small to medium sized punctures; dorsal longitudinal carinae defined but not sharp toward apex of postpetiole and on base of petiole. Second gastric tergite a little dully shining with fine micro-aciculation and many inconspicuous, well spaced, small to medium sized punctures which emit short, non-overlapping setae. Ovipositor with sheathed portion 0.40 times as long as fore wing; straight, stout, moderately compressed; tip with nodus scarcely raised, its presence indicated by a tiny notch, tip profile between notch and apex only slightly declining until just before apex where it is abruptly and almost vertically truncate; ventral valve on tip with long but not much projecting weakly inclivous ridges; tip 0.37 times as high at nodus as long from nodus to apex.

Type material. Holotype female, ARGENTINA, La Rioja Province, Sierra de Velasco, San Pedro, 1600 m, 30-IV-2007, C. Porter [IMLA].



Figure 4. *Trachysphyrus tmetus*, female, holotype. San Pedro, La Rioja, Argentina. Lateral view of apical part of ovipositor, showing the almost truncate tip.

group. Otherwise, it is close to *T. albomarginatus* and *T. uspallatae* but has the clypeus more strongly raised and more asymmetric, indeed subnasute rather than subpyramidal in profile; the submarginal groove of the pronotum stronger and deeply foveolate throughout, and the notauli longer, 0.8 instead of 0.5-0.6 times the length of mesoscutum.

Specific name. From the Greek adjective *tmetós* (cut, hewn), latinized as *tmetus* and chosen with regard to the truncate ovipositor tip that characterizes this species.

***Trachysphyrus albomarginatus* (Taschenberg)**

Little is known about this infrequently collected species. It has been captured in semihumid to moist habitats including the Chaco Serrano (Córdoba), Chaco Húmedo (Entre Ríos), and subtropical wet forest in the Sierra de San Javier close to San Miguel de Tucumán. It is uncertain whether the holotype female came from Paraná in the Argentine province of Entre Ríos or from Paraná State in southern Brazil.

***Trachysphyrus blanchardi* (Townes and Townes)**

Unlike most other species in its group, *T. blanchardi* inhabits humid subtropical woodlands and forest below 1500 m altitude in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brasil. I have collected it at Villa Nougues in the Sierra de San Javier just west of Tucumán city in subtropical wet forest under the shade of huge myrtacean and lauracean trees with their distinctive epiphytic flora of bromeliads, orchids, and arboreal cacti. It has been reared several times from the large, tough cocoons of *Megalopyge* spp. (Lepidoptera, Megalopygidae).

***Trachysphyrus brasson* Porter**

This species closely resembles *T. blanchardi* but may be recognized by its much shorter ovipositor (0.5 times as long as fore wing versus 0.7-0.8 times as long in *T. blanchardi*). DeSantis (1956) notes that his material was reared from the cocoon of an unidentified lepidopteron.

***Trachysphyrus ocris* Porter**

This common species occurs in the mountains and foothills of northwestern and west-central Argentina, mostly between 1000 and 3000 m altitude, from Jujuy Province south to Mendoza and prefers semiarid habitats such as the Subandean Desert (Monte) and the Prepuna. It also has been collected at lower altitudes in subtropical deciduous woodland (Chaco Serrano) and even in subtropical wet forest (Selva de las Yungas). It has been reared several times from mud nests of eumenid wasps (Vespoidea) in the genera *Pachymenes* Saussure and *Hypodynerus* (Porter 1967).

***Trachysphyrus uspallatae* Porter**

Material Examined. 2 females, Argentina, La Rioja Province, Sierra de Velasco, San Pedro, 1600 m, 30-IV-2000, P. Fidalgo (FSCA, IMLA)

This species was previously known only from Uspallata in Mendoza Province some 500 km distant in the southern Subandean Desert (Porter 1967). The specimens now recorded from La Rioja Province differ from the type series only in lacking white bands on gastric tergites 4-7.

***Trachysphyrus zaceras* Porter**

This species, unusual because of its ventro-distally flattened female flagellum, remains known only from the holotype, a specimen labeled "Río Negro, Conesa, **CHILE!!**, F. H. Walz." I assume that it actually comes from General Conesa in the Argentine province of Río Negro, located in austral Subandean Desert between Choele Choel and Viedma along the Río Negro river. There is no similar locality in Chile. Also, *T. zaceras* has the legs mostly pale orange in color, whereas Chilean members of this species group have the legs largely black.

Collections

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IMLA. Fundación e Instituto Miguel Lillo, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Miguel Lillo 251, 4000 San Miguel de Tucumán, R. Argentina.

Acknowledgments

Lionel A. Stange and Julieta Brambila of the FSCA reviewed the manuscript and Gary Steck of the same institution helped prepare the Auto-Montage© illustrations. Patricio Fidalgo of the CRILAR at Anillaco in La Rioja Province of northwest Argentina collected and sorted most of the material and Señor Daniel Peralta ran several Malaise traps in a humid ravine at nearby Santa Vera Cruz.

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Received September 29, 2008; accepted November 3, 2008.

